

Exhibit J

C O N F I D E N T I A L

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

ERIN GURSSLIN,

Plaintiff,

Civil Action No. 20-cv-6508

v.

THE CITY OF ROCHESTER, a municipal entity, POLICE
OFFICER JEREMY NELLIST, POLICE OFFICER JOSHUA
KELLY, COMMANDER FABIAN RIVERA, LIEUTENANT AARON
SPRINGER,

Defendants.

Video-recorded Deposition Upon Oral Examination of:

Officer Jonathan P. Laureano

Location: Alliance Court Reporting, Inc.
109 South Union Street, Suite 400
Rochester, New York 14607

Date: February 27, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Reported By: KIMBERLY A. BONSIGNORE

Alliance Court Reporting, Inc.

109 South Union Street, Suite 400

Rochester, New York 14607



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1 A P P E A R A N C E S

2 Appearing Remotely on Behalf of Plaintiff:

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8

9 Appearing on Behalf of Defendants:

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16

17 Also Present:

18 Kenneth Williamson, Videographer

19 Alliance Court Reporting, Inc.

20 109 South Union Street, Suite 400

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1 OFFICER JONATHAN P. LAUREANO - BY MR. SHIELDS

10:40:42 2 Counsel, please state your appearances for
10:40:45 3 the record, and please begin with the noticing
10:40:48 4 attorney.

10:40:48 5 MR. SHIELDS: Elliot Shields, Roth & Roth
10:40:51 6 LLP, for the plaintiff.

10:40:52 7 MS. JONES: Peachie Jones, with the City
10:40:55 8 of Rochester, for all defendants.

10:40:57 9 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Thank you, Counsel.

10:40:58 10 Our court reporter today is Kim
10:41:02 11 Bonsignore, also with Alliance Court Reporting, and
10:41:05 12 she will now swear in our witness.

13 You may begin, Counsel.

14 OFFICER JONATHAN P. LAUREANO,

15 called herein as a witness, first being sworn,
16 testified as follows:

10:41:17 17 EXAMINATION BY MR. SHIELDS:

10:41:17 18 Q. Good morning, Officer.

10:41:20 19 A. Good morning.

10:41:20 20 Q. My name is Elliot Shields. I represent
10:41:24 21 numerous people whose dogs have been shot and killed
10:41:28 22 by RPD officers. I'm going to ask you some questions
10:41:31 23 today. First I'm just going to go over some ground
10:41:35 24 rules for the deposition.

10:41:37 25 Will you tell me if you don't understand



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1 OFFICER JONATHAN P. LAUREANO - BY MR. SHIELDS

11:26:20 2 that moment.

11:26:21 3 Q. Okay. Had you ever received specific
11:26:24 4 training about judging any objective factors that a
11:26:32 5 dog displays to determine whether what you perceive to
11:26:38 6 be a threat is an actual threat?

11:26:40 7 MS. JONES: Objection.

11:26:44 8 A. The department did training on that some
11:26:49 9 time ago.

11:26:50 10 Q. Okay. What do you remember from that
11:26:52 11 training?

11:26:52 12 A. Some photos of aggressive dogs and just
11:27:00 13 more of a recognition on -- you know, things, again,
11:27:05 14 that we would already have been -- were already taught
11:27:09 15 about the growl -- you know, how they are as far as
11:27:14 16 posture or demeanor, like growling and like -- I don't
11:27:25 17 know -- lunging.

11:27:25 18 If you want to call it growling, like
11:27:28 19 lunging like when they snap their jaws. There's
11:27:30 20 traits that are exhibited that are quite apparent when
11:27:36 21 a dog is not happy to see you, I'd say.

11:27:41 22 Q. Okay. If the traits are so apparent, what
11:27:46 23 was the point of the training?

11:27:47 24 MS. JONES: Objection.

11:27:48 25 A. I would say that there can never be too



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1 OFFICER JONATHAN P. LAUREANO - BY MR. SHIELDS

11:27:52 2 much training, and refreshers are always good.

11:27:55 3 Q. Did the training help you to recognize
11:27:59 4 these signs of a dog's aggressiveness, aside from what
11:28:09 5 you've learned during your experience working in the
11:28:09 6 field as a police officer?

11:28:10 7 A. I mean, I wouldn't say that it was
11:28:12 8 anything I hadn't heard before, but it was -- like I
11:28:15 9 said, served as a good reinforcement because there are
11:28:19 10 individuals who transfer, you know, go to
11:28:21 11 administrative positions who are off the road for some
11:28:25 12 time, and they come back to the road. Sometimes
11:28:27 13 people forget things or lose things, and that's why
11:28:32 14 you have in-services.

11:28:33 15 Q. Okay. Did the training include anything
11:28:35 16 about how to avoid shooting a dog that you perceive to
11:28:41 17 be aggressive?

11:28:41 18 A. I believe it did. I don't recall
11:28:43 19 specifically what that was, but I don't believe it --
11:28:47 20 I'm not sure if it deviated too much again from what
11:28:49 21 we were already taught about time, distance, and
11:28:53 22 cover.

11:28:54 23 Q. Okay. With any of the instances that you
11:29:00 24 shot at a dog, were you ever disciplined?

11:29:05 25 A. No.



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1 OFFICER JONATHAN P. LAUREANO - BY MR. SHIELDS

01:25:36 2 avoid shooting the dog?

01:25:37 3 MS. JONES: Objection.

01:25:38 4 A. As I already stated, sir, it happened
01:25:44 5 within seconds. So by the time we could make that
01:25:48 6 request, the dog had already made a couple aggressive
01:25:54 7 movements and was approaching -- was approaching us
01:25:57 8 and was a threat at that point.

01:25:59 9 Had it just remained seated and -- I guess
01:26:04 10 I've already described that sometimes they're more
01:26:06 11 alarmed and they're standoffish, they're aggressive,
01:26:09 12 but it's just posturing, and they're not really
01:26:11 13 looking to get into anything. They're just looking to
01:26:13 14 let us know that we're not welcome. And there's time
01:26:15 15 at that point to call for a less-lethal deployment, or
01:26:18 16 a catch pole, because we know the dog's, you know, not
01:26:23 17 imminently a threat. It's not charging anybody and
01:26:27 18 it -- we have time. In that moment, we did not have
01:26:28 19 time. We had several seconds, and it was over as
01:26:31 20 quickly as it began.

01:26:32 21 Q. What would have happened if the whole
01:26:34 22 team, before entering the gate, had paused, pointed
01:26:39 23 their guns at the three individuals in the driveway,
01:26:43 24 and said "Secure that dog" before entering the gate to
01:26:47 25 go up to the front door and enter the house?



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